



Town of Wyoming
Council Workshop
Wyoming Town Annex
January 12, 2013
11:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Rife called the Workshop to order at 11:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL – Mayor Rife, present; Secretary Stokes, present; Treasurer Williams, present; Councilwoman Greenwood, present; Vice Mayor Witt, absent
Ms. Williams made a motion seconded by Ms. Stokes to excuse Mr. Witt's absence due to illness. All in favor; none opposed.

Staff attending: Town Clerk Pamela Haddick

Audience attending: Carol McFann, Kim Bomberger, Mike Marasco, Gene McFann

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Mayor Rife

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR TROOPS – Mayor Rife

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- *Ms. Williams made a motion to adopt the agenda as published. Ms. Stokes seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed.*

CHARTER CHANGES

- Council went through a red-lined copy of the Charter that our attorney, Barrett Edwards, had marked changes he believed needed to be done.
- Mayor Rife gave some suggestions of items she felt needed changing.
- Ms. Williams also gave some suggestions of items she felt needed changing.
- Ms. Haddick will type up notes on these suggestions and attach a copy to these minutes and send a copy to Mr. Edwards for him to work on.

SIDEWALK ORDINANCE

- Discussion ensued on the Possible Sidewalk Ordinance that has previously had a first reading but no second reading or vote. Each member of Council gave their input. As most of them were against moving forward with this ordinance, it was decided that it will go on the February agenda for a second reading and Council will just vote it down at that time.

- Mr. & Mrs. McFann, owners of the property where Simply Charming is housed, as well as the Simply Charming proprietors have asked that they get a letter stating what Mr. Snyder, the code enforcement officer, stated at the earlier meetings when this ordinance was first discussed as to what and where they can display their goods in front of the store. Ms. Haddick will get that out to them as soon as she can.
- Council will ask Chief Willey what the Dept. of Transportation regulations are on parking on and near sidewalks in order that the police department can start enforcing some of the vehicle issues we have had involving sidewalks.

Ms. Greenwood made a motion seconded by Ms. Stokes to adjourn the workshop. All in favor; none opposed.

The workshop adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Haddick, CMC, Town Clerk

Town of Wyoming Charter

3.2 Qualifications

- We currently require each person running for mayor or a council seat to have a state criminal background check in order to run and each time they run. The results of it must be turned in at the time the filing papers are turned in. Should this requirement be added here?
- Also, we are wondering about people who are currently on Council and are running again for the same seat. They had the criminal background check when they ran the first time. Should we have them get one each time they run as we do now or just the first time unless there is a lapse in term and they run again later?
- Currently we only do a state background check. We were wondering if maybe the first time running we have them get a federal background check instead because it would be more in depth and then sign some sort of contract with the Town stating that if they have any legal issues while on Council, they have to notify Council of it. Then unless their term ends and they run again at a later time, there would be no need for a follow up background check. What are your thoughts?

14.6 Treasurer

- The beginning of this section states that the Treasurer must be sworn in by the Mayor before entering upon the duties of his/her office. Our Treasurer is always a Council Member who has already been sworn in to take the seat. Is it necessary to be sworn in again as Treasurer?
- This section goes on to talk about the Treasurer giving bond of at least \$30,000 and later states that the Treasurer is not required to do this if the Town has a Public Employee Bond of at least \$1,000,000. Are Council Members and the Mayor considered public employees even though they do not get paid?

14.9 Town Solicitor

- This section basically states that the Town Solicitor needs to be appointed at the annual meeting each year, but Terry has told the Mayor that once appointed, the Town Solicitor serves at the Council's pleasure and should not need appointing each year. So is this section really needed or should it be re-worded?

15. Assessment of Taxes

- (C) & (D) Since Wyoming uses Kent County's assessments for tax billing, is it necessary to have section (C)? Wyoming's Council can do nothing about the assessments other than send residents to the county anyway. We may still need to have a meeting in order to hear appeals on **additions** to tax bills.

16. Exemption of Property from Taxation

- (A) To my knowledge, no tax exemptions have ever been given under this. Is it necessary?

- (B) This section is fine as it is except Council does not limit to seven (7) years. Is there a requirement somewhere else that exemptions can only run for 7 years? We have always (since I've been here) told people who annex in that they will have to pay no taxes (only trash) as long as they own the house. Once they sell it, it will once again become taxable. What's your opinion on this?
- (C) & (D) Kent County exempts tax payers due to age and disability. Wyoming might want to just exempt (or discount) those that Kent County has approved. We are looking into Kent County's income requirements. If their requirements are a lot higher than ours, it might cost us too much in lost revenue to use them. Georgette is looking into it. I'll let you know what we decide after she looks into that.

17. Collection of Taxes and Other Charges

- Second Paragraph – Change the first day of **June** to the first day of **July**.
- Third Paragraph – Change the first day of **July** to the first day of **August** in both places that the month of July is mentioned in this sentence.
- These are things our auditor is pushing us to do.

18. Enumeration of Specific Powers of Council

- Section 18.11 – We do have the dog ordinance which we enacted; however, Kent County handles dog licenses, not the Town – maybe this needs some word tweeking. Dale seems to think that all dog issues have been taken out of our hands. Can you find out exactly what the county controls and what we can still control?

20. Fiscal Year, Annual Statement

- The fiscal year part is fine; however, the Town does not produce an annual statement. We use the audit that an outside auditor does for us. When we receive the final audit from them, we announce to the public at council meetings and in the newsletter that we have it and anyone who would like to see it or have a copy can stop by Town Hall and pick one up. If we also post it on the website, is that sufficient or do we really have to post it in 5 locations? The problem is that three of the places we normally post agendas and notices are bulletin boards inside glass, so if we post there, the public cannot get to the audit to turn the pages and look at it.

21.4 Provision for Payment; Special Tax; Sinking Fund

- The Town has some ditches (not tax ditches) that seriously need clean-up. Can we put something in here giving Council the right to assess maintenance fees against properties adjacent to these ditches? The ditches have become clogged up with stuff people have thrown in there over the years and it is causing drainage issues which in turn are causing flooding issues in bad storms. We think cleaning them out will help with that.
- Some of these properties are in the county, not within town limits. What can we do about them?